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SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : May I know, Sir, whether any paper has submitted an apology and therefore the action against it was dropped? If so, may I know the name of the paper and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I am not aware of any apology that was tendered by any paper.

DR. H. V. HANDE : May I know the work of the Press Information Officer who has been recently appointed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : A separate question may be put, Sir.

Planning Department

* 25 *Q.*—SRI N. R. THIAGARAJAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any Planning Department in the State;

(*b*) whether there is any proposal to appoint a Planning Committee in each district; and

(*c*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : : (*a*) There is a separate Planning Wing in the Finance Department.

(*b*) There is no Planning Committee at District level. But District Development Councils watch and review the progress of various developmental activities undertaken in the District.

(*c*) Does not arise.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, the District Development Councils make so many recommendations and pass so many resolutions. They also take very important decisions. May I know, Sir, whether these are taken into consideration and acted upon by the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : They will be looked into in terms of the rules that have been framed under the Act.

DR. H. V. HANDE : May I know, Sir, whether the Planning Wing has secretariat status or only a district status?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have said, Sir, that it is functioning as a separate wing in the Finance Department.

Primary Health Centres

* 26 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Primary Health Centres which have no doctors for the last four months in North Arcot district; and

(*b*) the reasons therefor?

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THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: (a) One.

(b) The Medical Officer of the Primary Health Centre at Perangattur was relieved on 14th January 1965 forenoon to undergo the condensed M.B.B.S. course. A substitute could not be posted immediately due to acute shortage of Medical Officers in Madras Medical Service. A substitute has since joined duty on 23rd May 1965.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN: Is the Hon. Minister aware that there are many Primary Health Centres in almost all the districts without doctors for long periods of time, say, even more than six months? Will the Government do something with regard to this?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: I do not think there are many centres without doctors; at least so far as my knowledge goes, there are only four primary health centres without doctors, and that too only during the past three months.

SRI M. RAJAH IYER: Will the Government relax the age rules and appoint superannuated doctors to these health centres to man them? These doctors will be very quiet and pleasant in villages.

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: Sir, the hon. Member's suggestion will be taken into consideration.

DR. H. V. HANDE: How many health centres are there in the North Arcot District and how many of them have doctors?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM: I want notice of a separate question, Sir.

Panchayat Union Councils

* 27 *Q.*—DR. H. V. HANDE: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the number of deaths that took place and the prosecutions launched in connection with the elections to Panchayat Union Councils?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID: The particulars called for from the Collectors of districts are awaited.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR: Sir, generally it takes such a long time for questions being answered, and even then they say particulars are awaited from the Collectors, which is not very helpful to the member who puts the question. Will the Government look into the matter and see that the answers, full answers, are obtained and given to the House as quickly as possible?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID: Some Collectors have sent in their replies and reports from some others are awaited.

DR. H. V. HANDE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question may be postponed for the present and answered by the Government after getting the reports from all Collectors.